



The Daily

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Building permits, June 2001** 2
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NEW PRODUCTS



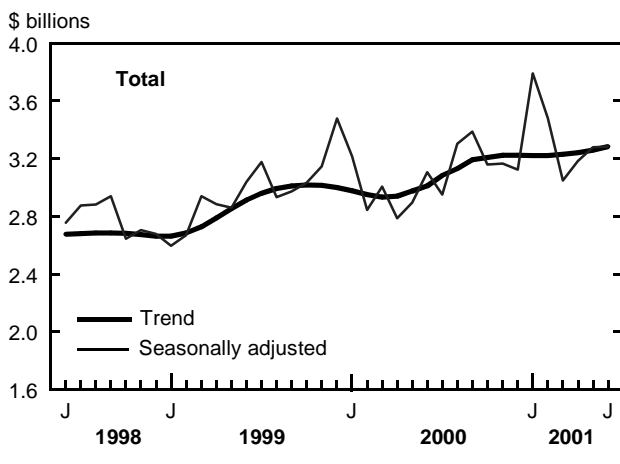
MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits

June 2001

The value of building permits issued by municipalities in June was virtually unchanged from May. However, the total for the first six months of 2001 hit a 12-year peak, due to record high housing construction intentions and substantial gains in the non-residential sector.

Total value of permits remained stable



Builders took out \$3.3 billion worth of permits in June, up 0.2% from May, as the residential and non-residential sectors followed opposite paths.

Fuelled by gains in both single- and multi-family dwellings, housing permits rose 6.5% from May to \$1.9 billion. In contrast, intentions in the non-residential sector declined 7.6% to \$1.4 billion. All three components fell — industrial, commercial and institutional.

From January to June, municipalities issued \$20.1 billion in building permits, up 12.4% over the same six months of 2000 — the highest level for the first half of any year since 1989. Gains were strong in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

Housing permits reached a record high of \$10.9 billion in the first six months of 2001, up 9.1% from the same period in 2000. In the non-residential sector, the year-to-date total was \$9.1 billion, up 16.6%.

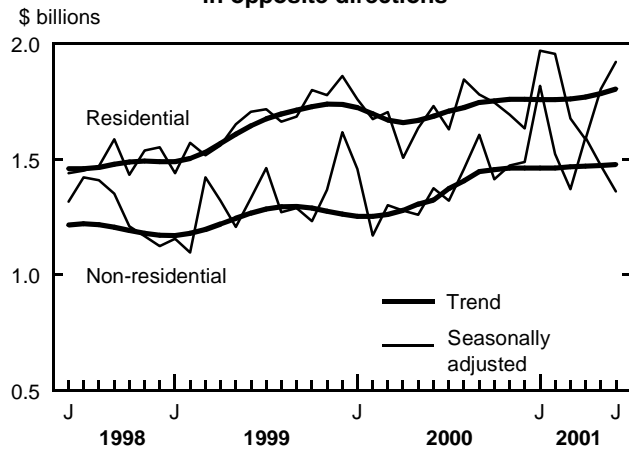
Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and Demolitions Permits Monthly Survey covers 2,500 municipalities representing 94% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 6% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers, culverts) and land.

Residential and non-residential sectors moved in opposite directions



Among census metropolitan areas, the largest growth so far this year was in Montréal, largely due to projects for office buildings and plants. Toronto recorded the next largest gain, mainly on the strength of construction intentions for multi-family dwellings.

Multi-family dwelling projects drove record first half for housing

The value of building permits for multi-family dwellings was up 13.9% in June to \$623 million, following a 36.3% increase in May. Permits for single-family dwellings rose 3.3% to \$1.3 billion.

Among the provinces, Ontario posted the highest growth in residential construction intentions for June

(+13.9% to \$974 million). Quebec was a distant second (+10.6% to \$310 million).

Several recent indicators have also shown strength in the housing sector. Housing starts climbed 13.7% in June and, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association, sales of existing homes in Canada's 25 major markets established a quarterly record during the second quarter of 2001. As well, prices for new homes continued to increase at a sustained pace.

The tight vacancy rates for apartments in several major centres contributed to high construction intentions for multi-family dwellings.

The record high in housing permits for the first six months of 2001 mainly resulted from a 24.0% increase in proposals for multi-family dwellings. This rate of growth was more than six times the 3.8% increase in building permits for single-family housing.

At the provincial level, the most important gain (in dollar terms) for the January-to-June period occurred in Ontario (+9.6% to \$5.5 billion). The next-largest gain was in British Columbia (+27.1% to \$1.4 billion). Both provinces posted substantial increases in the multi-family component. The largest decline was posted in Nova Scotia (-19.0% to \$211 million).

Declines posted in commercial, industrial sectors

In June, permits for non-residential projects fell 7.6% to \$1.4 billion, following a decline in May.

Largely because of a decrease in the office building category, commercial projects declined 5.0% to \$706 million after a sharp drop the month before. Following a strong performance in May, Nova Scotia showed the largest decrease (-74.3% to \$9 million).

Driven by a major decline for building permits for plants, the value of industrial construction intentions dropped in June (-22.2% to \$237 million).

Institutional building intentions posted the smallest decline (-1.9% to \$418 million). Increases in social service buildings and small projects were more than offset by retreats in education and governmental building permits. Alberta recorded the largest decline, whereas Prince Edward Island recorded the largest advance.

Among the provinces, the most significant monthly decline occurred in Quebec (-17.9% to \$304 million) due to a large drop in permits for plants in the Montréal region. In contrast, Ontario posted the largest increase (+10.4% to \$538 million). The Toronto and Windsor areas showed strong growth in institutional and commercial building projects.

In the first six months of 2001, non-residential building intentions reached \$9.1 billion, up 16.6%

compared with the same period of 2000, powered by rises in all three components. Commercial building intentions saw the largest advance (+15.1% to \$5.0 billion). Permits for industrial intentions reached \$1.9 billion, up 9.5%, while institutional permits jumped 27.5% to \$2.2 billion.

Low interest rates, good corporate profits in 2000 and higher proposed construction spending by municipalities in 2001 are consistent with the strong cumulative increase in the non-residential sector.

Among the provinces, Quebec recorded the largest year-to-date increase (+53.1% to \$2.2 billion). The strongest decrease was recorded in Nova Scotia (-43.2% to \$130 million), led by declines in the commercial and institutional components.

Value of building permits

Census metropolitan area	2001 ^r		2001 ^p		2000		2000	
	May	June	May	June	Jan. to June	Jan. to June	Jan. to June	Jan. to June
			to		to	to	to	to
			2001	2001	2000	2000	2000	2000
			%				%	
	\$ millions		change	\$ millions		% change		% change
St. John's	23.7	17.9	-24.4	82.0	89.5	9.2		
Halifax	54.1	31.6	-41.5	294.5	172.4	-41.5		
Saint John	8.1	5.9	-27.4	44.4	38.1	-14.2		
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	11.8	13.0	10.9	78.5	98.4	25.4		
Québec	60.4	64.0	5.9	285.4	347.8	21.9		
Sherbrooke	13.5	7.8	-42.3	54.0	66.9	23.9		
Trois-Rivières	19.4	12.3	-36.6	46.8	60.1	28.6		
Montréal	366.9	346.5	-5.6	1524.0	2297.4	50.7		
Hull	28.3	24.5	-13.5	117.9	201.8	71.2		
Ottawa	122.8	124.2	1.1	640.9	751.1	17.2		
Oshawa	48.6	78.4	61.3	366.0	273.9	-25.2		
Toronto	523.9	668.0	27.5	3945.1	4358.8	10.5		
Hamilton	62.4	76.6	22.8	359.6	429.1	19.3		
St. Catharines-Niagara	30.5	29.2	-4.3	174.2	185.8	6.7		
Kitchener	84.7	73.8	-13.0	376.8	427.2	13.4		
London	100.6	82.0	-18.5	248.5	412.4	66.0		
Windsor	29.1	59.2	103.2	238.8	259.8	8.8		
Sudbury	7.7	7.5	-2.3	35.0	35.7	2.1		
Thunder Bay	9.5	9.4	-0.8	54.3	48.8	-10.0		
Winnipeg	39.9	44.1	10.5	268.5	224.0	-16.6		
Regina	14.1	16.7	19.0	88.9	122.5	37.7		
Saskatoon	31.8	8.8	-72.3	155.4	135.6	-12.7		
Calgary	212.4	180.2	-15.2	1227.4	1101.0	-10.3		
Edmonton	112.9	90.2	-20.0	609.7	638.0	4.6		
Vancouver	282.4	243.4	-13.8	1344.8	1653.5	23.0		
Victoria	20.7	27.4	32.3	145.8	167.8	15.1		

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Available on CANSIM: tables 260001-260008, 260010 and 260011 and matrices 80 (levels 3-7 and 33-48), 129, 137, 443, 989-995 and 4073.

The June 2001 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The July 2001 building permits estimates will be released on September 5. To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; clarver@statcan.ca). For

more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Valérie

Gaudreault (613-951-1165; gaudval@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Value of building permits

	May 2001 ^r	June 2001 ^p	May to June 2001	January to June 2000	January to June 2001	January-June 2000 to January-June 2001
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Canada	3,278.5	3,283.8	0.2	17,857.5	20,064.7	12.4
Residential	1,804.9	1,922.7	6.5	10,011.9	10,919.9	9.1
Non-residential	1,473.6	1,361.1	-7.6	7,845.5	9,144.9	16.6
Newfoundland	36.6	31.9	-12.8	121.0	145.2	20.0
Residential	17.9	19.0	6.6	85.9	85.2	-0.8
Non-residential	18.8	12.9	-31.3	35.1	60.0	71.0
Prince Edward Island	4.6	57.4	1145.7	44.2	92.7	109.8
Residential	2.9	8.0	174.4	26.2	28.9	10.6
Non-residential	1.7	49.4	2824.6	18.0	63.8	253.9
Nova Scotia	79.8	60.2	-24.6	489.5	341.0	-30.3
Residential	41.8	48.7	16.3	260.3	210.9	-19.0
Non-residential	38.0	11.5	-69.7	229.2	130.1	-43.2
New Brunswick	55.2	40.8	-26.1	229.0	251.0	9.6
Residential	20.8	23.6	13.5	134.9	125.4	-7.1
Non-residential	34.4	17.1	-50.1	94.0	125.7	33.6
Quebec	650.4	613.9	-5.6	3023.6	3978.2	31.6
Residential	280.3	310.0	10.6	1576.9	1763.7	11.8
Non-residential	370.1	303.9	-17.9	1446.7	2214.4	53.1
Ontario	1342.3	1511.7	12.6	8172.4	9093.3	11.3
Residential	855.5	974.1	13.9	4983.8	5463.9	9.6
Non-residential	486.8	537.6	10.4	3188.6	3629.5	13.8
Manitoba	63.8	71.9	12.7	445.9	373.7	-16.2
Residential	29.6	33.0	11.5	179.0	165.6	-7.5
Non-residential	34.2	38.9	13.7	266.9	208.1	-22.0
Saskatchewan	64.3	46.4	-27.9	358.6	380.5	6.1
Residential	24.3	15.2	-37.4	133.8	111.3	-16.8
Non-residential	40.0	31.2	-22.1	224.8	269.2	19.7
Alberta	512.0	426.9	-16.6	2702.9	2728.2	0.9
Residential	277.0	257.7	-7.0	1503.3	1545.0	2.8
Non-residential	235.0	169.2	-28.0	1199.6	1183.2	-1.4
British Columbia	458.8	416.4	-9.2	2223.5	2638.3	18.7
Residential	248.4	229.7	-7.5	1099.7	1398.0	27.1
Non-residential	210.4	186.7	-11.3	1123.9	1240.3	10.4
Yukon	3.6	1.9	-46.6	15.3	21.6	40.9
Residential	1.7	0.9	-46.9	8.3	10.6	28.3
Non-residential	1.9	1.0	-46.4	7.0	11.0	55.7
Northwest Territories	1.7	2.9	64.3	10.0	11.7	17.0
Residential	1.6	2.2	34.2	3.9	5.7	44.2
Non-residential	0.1	0.7	409.3	6.0	6.0	-0.7
Nunavut	5.4	1.6	-69.6	21.6	9.3	-56.9
Residential	3.2	0.6	-81.1	15.9	5.7	-64.0
Non-residential	2.3	1.1	-53.5	5.7	3.6	-37.2

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Note: Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

NEW PRODUCTS

Cereals and oilseeds review, May 2001, Vol. 24, no. 5
Catalogue number **22-007-XIB** (\$11/\$112).

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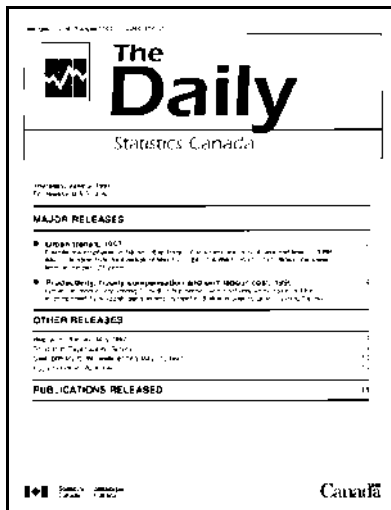
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